

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Ian D. McRury et al.

Confirmation No.: 3998

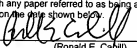
Application No.: 10/024,625

Art Unit: 3731

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: Darwin P. Erez

For: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being filed via EFS-Web on the date shown below:  
Dated: March 5, 2007      Signature:   
(Ronald E. Cahill)

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Amendment within 2 months of the Final Office Action, and so this application qualifies for expedited treatment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2007, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.